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3-11-2002

GSUniverse, 2002-05-27

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Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Public Affairs, GSUniverse (2002, May 27). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsuniverse/6>

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Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

May 27-31, 2002

Published by the Office of Public Affairs

"Ignorance is not innocence but sin" --Robert Browning

University Acts to Meet Budget Challenge: Reduce Expenses

In the face of a cut of \$3.3 million, or about 12 percent, from the original state appropriated budget of FY02, President Stuart Fagan announced a series of actions to reduce expenses and increase revenues for FY03. Costs will be reduced by \$2.6 million through a combination of actions. The University will defer some maintenance projects and reduce travel, contractual services, and equipment purchases. A number of budgeted but unfilled positions will be eliminated. The positions of several individuals who have announced their retirements will not be filled. And 15 non-faculty positions currently held will be eliminated. In a May 24 letter to the University community, Dr. Fagan wrote, "These are permanent reductions because the reduced state appropriations will be the base on which future budgets will be built."

University Acts to Meet Budget Challenge: Increase Revenues

The University expects to generate \$700,000 or more in additional revenue through a combination of actions. At the June 15 Board meeting, Trustees will consider a proposal to initiate a fee of \$5.00 for each transcript requested. A transcript fee is consistent with the practices of other universities. A committee chaired by Dr. William Nowlin, Dean of the College of Business and Public Administration, is reviewing all other fees, some of which have not been raised in 12 years. Trustees will be presented with preliminary proposals for increases in fees. In addition, Trustees will be presented preliminary proposals to increase undergraduate tuition for the Winter Trimester, beyond the 4.1 percent increase for the Fall Trimester, which has already been approved. And they will be presented preliminary proposals for a further increase in graduate tuition, beyond the 5.7 percent increase already approved. Finally, The Offices of Admissions and Student Recruitment and Marketing and Communications, will plan to reallocate their resources to focus on specific programs, which will be more cost effective.

Illinois Board of Higher Education Scheduled to Meet

The Illinois Board of Higher Education is scheduled meet June 4. Budget issues facing higher education will be at the top of the agenda. President Fagan will represent Governors State.

Meeting of University Community Scheduled for June 6

President Fagan will meet with the University Community at 3:00 p.m., June 6, in Sherman Music Hall to report on the IBHE meeting, discuss the budget situation and the actions taken to meet the reductions in state appropriations, and answer all questions. Everyone should plan to attend.

REMINDER: URGENT NOTICE TO STUDENTS ON FINANCIAL AID

Because some lawmakers have proposed major reductions in the state's Monetary Award Program, students are urged to submit their applications for financial aid as quickly as possible. Officials warn that the state may set an early deadline.

The Planners: It Was Like Walking Through a Tornado

On Sunday, June 2, Governors State's Commencement will take place, culminating months of planning and hard work by a committee of folks led by Colleen Rock Cawthon, coordinator of academic programs. Because of the construction on campus and concerns about safety, the decision was made to move Commencement off-site. The committee scouted out and secured a new location – The Tinley Park Holiday Inn and Convention Center -- and worked out myriad of details connected with collapsing a two-day event into one day. "On some days it was like walking through a tornado," Cawthon said. But despite the bumpy ride, things are running smoothly and Commencement promises to be a class act. "The bottom line is we are saving the university a lot of money without compromising the quality of the event. I feel that this has been our greatest achievement."

The Location: Weather Be Damned

One committee member said the best thing about having the Commencement at the Holiday Inn is that it doesn't matter what the weather brings. "I remember one Commencement here on campus when we nearly fainted, it was so hot outside." We won't repeat the comments we received about the geese.

The Numbers: GSU's Evidence of Excellence

As of now, Governors State will confer 1400 degrees on June 2. That breaks down to 810 students receiving undergrad degrees and 590 receiving masters.

Keynoter I: *Dead Man Walking*: The Book, the Movie, the Opera

Sister Helen Prejean, one of the scheduled keynote speakers at Commencement, is the author of *Dead Man Walking*, a best-selling book opposing the death penalty. *Dead Man* was subsequently turned into an award-winning movie and later an opera which debuted last year.

Keynoter II: A GSU Family Development Center Enthusiast

The other speaker is Barbara Bowman one of the founders and past president of the Erickson Institute, the premier graduate school in child development. She has also helped to develop the programs in the Family Development Center at GSU.